

**APPENDIX A**  
**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**  
**37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(iii) AND (c)(1)(ii)**

**CLAIMS:**

1. (Amended) A piezoelectric element comprising:  
a plurality of piezoelectric layers comprising a piezoelectric material which is a bismuth-based ceramic comprising Sr, Bi, Ti, and O;  
at least three vibration electrodes opposing each other, each disposed among the piezoelectric layers, and  
an energy-confining region formed in a region in which the vibration electrodes overlap and exciting an n-order longitudinal thickness vibration;  
wherein the maximum length L of a secant between two intersections on the periphery of the energy-confining region and the distance t between the topmost vibration electrode and the bottommost vibration electrode satisfy the ratio  $nL/t < 10$ , wherein n is [Greater] greater than 1.
  
3. (Amended) A piezoelectric element comprising:  
a plurality of piezoelectric layers comprising a piezoelectric material which is a bismuth-based ceramic comprising Ca, Bi, Ti, and O;  
at least three vibration electrodes opposing each other, each disposed among the piezoelectric layers; and  
an energy-confining region formed in a region in which the vibration electrodes overlap and exciting an n-th order longitudinal thickness vibration;  
wherein the maximum length L of a secant between two intersections on the periphery of the energy-confining region and the distance t between the topmost vibration electrode and the bottommost vibration electrode satisfy the ratio  $nL/t < 9$ , wherein n is an [Integer] integer greater than 1.